Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An improved process for the production of ~~Desloratadine~~ desloratadine which comprises,

(a) reacting starting compound loratadine with neat alcohol in presence of inorganic base,

(b) adding excess water after completion of said reaction in step (a);

(c) isolating the ~~title compound~~ desloratadine in substantially pure crystalline form by conventional methods on addition of excess water in step (b).

2. (Original) An improved process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the alcohol used is alkanols of 1 to 10 carbon atoms.

3. (Previously presented) An improved process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the neat alcohol is methanol, ethanol, propanol, isopropanol, tert. butyl alcohol, pentanol, hexanol, cycloalkanols or aromatic alcohols or combinations thereof.

4. (Original) An improved process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the alcohol used is a C_1-C_4 alkanol, preferably methanol.

5. (Original) An improved process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the amount of alcohol used vary between 1 and 10 (w/v) equivalents calculated on the starting compound loratadine.

6. (Previously presented) An improved process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the amount of alcohol used is 2-6 (w/v) equivalents.

7. (Previously presented) An improved process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the inorganic base used is an alkali metal hydroxide.

8. (Previously presented) An improved process as claimed in claim 7 wherein the alkali metal hydroxide is sodium hydroxide, or potassium hydroxide.

9. (Previously presented) An improved process as claimed in claim 7 wherein the alkali metal hydroxide used is sodium hydroxide.

10. (Previously presented) An improved process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the amount of inorganic base used varies between 0.5 and 1.6 (w/w) equivalents calculated on the starting compound loratadine.

11. (Original) An improved process as claimed in claim 1 wherein 1-1.6 (w/w) equivalents of base is used.

12. (Original) An improved process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the base used is 1.1 (w/w) equivalents.

13. (Previously presented) An improved process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the reaction is carried out at a temperature between 60^0 and 100^0 C or at respective refluxing temperature between 80^0 and 95^0 C.

14. (Original) An improved process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the amount of water added is 2 to 4 times of the solvent employed.

15. (Previously presented) An improved process as claimed in claim 1, where in the isolation is effected by filtration.

16. (Previously presented) An improved process as claimed in claim 3, wherein the neat alcohol is methanol.

17. (Previously presented) An improved process as claimed in claim 3, wherein the neat alcohol is ethanol.

18. (Previously presented) An improved process as claimed in claim 3, wherein the neat alcohol is n-propanol.

19. (Previously presented) An improved process as claimed in claim 6, wherein the amount of alcohol used is 4 equivalents.

20. (Previously presented) An improved process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the reaction is carried out at a temperature between 85^0 C and 95^0 C.